

she is receiving is imminently well-deserved, and I know this is merely the first step of many bright years ahead.

**BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, while there is much in this bill that concerns me, I will vote for it because its primary purpose is to make necessary improvements in securing our borders, which I think is needed as part—but only part—of immigration-reform legislation.

To be frank, however, if this bill represented our last word on immigration reform, I would vote against it. By focusing exclusively on the question of border security and immigration enforcement, the House Republican leadership is ignoring the most difficult and challenging aspect of immigration reform, namely the question of how to deal humanely and effectively with the estimated 8–11 million illegal immigrants currently living and working in this country.

Moreover, I am not in favor of making every man, woman and child who overstays a visa or resides in this country illegally a criminal. By making any violation of immigration rules a criminal rather than a civil offense we may only end up discouraging law enforcement from discovering real threats of terrorism or violent criminal conduct. Driving illegal immigrants deeper underground, even more than current law, which keeps them in the shadows, is a terrible tactic if our overarching goal is national security.

So, Mr. Chairman, there are some strong reasons for voting against this legislation. It offers no full solution to the problem of illegal immigration; it is unnecessarily punitive toward otherwise law-abiding individuals, and it unwisely commits this country to the construction of a costly border fence that many security experts believe will divert resources away from more important homeland security needs.

My readiness to support this bill was also reduced by the rhetoric of some who are most vocally in support of it. There is perhaps no more divisive issue in our country than immigration, and sadly, the tone and content of much of the debate in the House has only fueled the division. I discussed the tone and substance of this debate with a good friend and colleague from the Republican side of the aisle and found that we agreed that the House was missing an opportunity to unite the country and pass a sorely-needed comprehensive immigration reform bill.

Despite these concerns, I will vote in favor of this bill because we have to make necessary investments in border security and enforcement. The 9/11 Commission has rec-

ommended increased immigration enforcement personnel, stronger surveillance, tougher entry-and-exit procedures and the use of better technologies to enhance our border security. This bill addresses these concerns and I favor all of these provisions.

Finally, I am convinced that reassuring the American people that we have taken strong action to strengthen enforcement and secure our borders is a necessary predicate for the harder and more complicated task of addressing the problem of existing illegal and undocumented workers.

With stronger border security and enforcement established we can work with the Administration and our colleagues in the Senate to build a consensus for the harder task of clarifying the status of existing illegal immigrants, most of whom are hard-working and otherwise law-abiding people, in a humane and thoughtful way that will protect children, include guest-worker needs and establish a fairer process for legalized entry. If that effort succeeds—as I think it can and am convinced it must—the result not only will be better than the bill before us, it will be a measure that deserves to be sent to the President for signing into law.

**HONORING NORTH METCALFE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 6TH GRADE ACADEMIC TEAM**

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, December 17, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the North Metcalfe Elementary School 6th Grade Academic Team for their participation and high achievement in the Kentucky Colonel academic competition on December 3, 2005. In this competition, students competed in written assessment categories of math, science, language arts, social studies and arts and humanities.

In these categories, team members placed first and second in math and second in language arts. Collectively, the team went home as first place Kentucky Colonels Quick Recall Champions and placed second in the overall competition, defeating six other teams. Together, they demonstrated great academic prowess, teamwork and sportsmanship before a regional audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

I would like to commend Kristen Compton, Price Bell, Lindsey Coomer and Chandler Staggs for their accomplishment. I would also like to recognize their coaches, two fine educators, Angela Welsh and Rachel Dial. I am very proud to represent these students, teachers and their families.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the North Metcalfe Elementary School 6th Grade Academic Team for their achievement and wish them continued success in their promising future years.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL ANTHONY THOMAS MCELVEEN

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, December 17, 2005*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous young man who died while serving our country in the war in Iraq. Corporal Anthony Thomas McElveen, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, was killed by enemy action while conducting combat operations on December 1 in Fallujah, Iraq.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, I wish to extend condolences to Corporal McElveen's family and friends, and especially to his widow Carrie who resides in my district.

I also extend the thanks of our state and nation to a brave Marine and his family for their sacrifice in keeping the fight for our freedom on foreign soil. Corporal McElveen's courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to pay the ultimate price to preserve his country will never be forgotten.

Semper Fidelis.

**HONORING MR. TERRY R. ADAMS FROM ASHLAND, OREGON**

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, December 17, 2005*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight and commend the service of Mr. Terry R. Adams, a resident of Oregon's Second Congressional District, for his service to his community and the nation as a member of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents. Mr. Adams recently completed his term as the president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents and had previously served in many positions of responsibility in the Association for more than 18 years. Mr. Adams has also served the insurance industry in many positions at the state level, including as president of the Oregon/Idaho state affiliate.

Mr. Adams has been recognized by his peers for his service in the industry, having twice been honored as the Professional Agent of the Year by the Professional Insurance Agents of Oregon/Idaho, first in 1996 and again in 2001. Terry is a principal of Reinholdt & O'Hara Insurance in Ashland, Oregon, where he has spent his professional career advising consumers about how to obtain the best insurance coverage for their needs.

Mr. Adams' dedication to the highest standards of professionalism as a professional insurance agent has earned him the respect of friends, colleagues and the insurance industry as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to rise today to share with my colleagues the good work that Mr. Adams has done throughout his career as a member of the insurance community, and again congratulate him on the completion of his term as the president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.